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‘SMASH’ STAR NOT A DIVA — SADLY THE WORD {page 14}

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Monday, March 11, 2013

Quinn’s historic bid to be the next mayor

- The Council Speaker officially tosses her hat into the 2013 mayoral race
- It would make her the first female and openly gay mayor in New York history
- She is launching a ‘walk and talk’ tour of the boroughs {page 02}

Teens. Guns

▶ YO S.O.S. in Crown Heights reaches out to teens in the community that have been affected by gun violence. {page 02}

books

Author hops to ‘Hopper’ {page 16}

films

Would you stop a murder? {page 17}

jobs

Cooking school: Yay or nay? {page 24}

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YO S.O.S.: Brooklyn teens are ready to holster gun violence in Crown Heights

Community group teaches leadership skills to teens affected by gun violence Many joined because of neighborhood shootings

On any given Monday or Wednesday afternoon, in a third-floor room in a church on Kingston Avenue, a group of 14- to 17-year-olds are gearing up for important work: tackling the issue of gun violence in their community.

These teens are part of a group called YO S.O.S. (Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets) in Crown Heights, a program that many of them say hits very close to home. YO S.O.S. empowers these teens to become leaders and to speak out to their peers about gun violence.

Mariama Barry, a ninth-grader at Wingate, lives in Bed-Stuy and said she was motivated to join YO S.O.S. because of the shootings in her neighborhood. There were 41 shootings in the 77th precinct covering that neighborhood, according to the NYPD.

"I've heard the gunshots and it's really disturbing," Mariama explained.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN/METRO

▶ Yo S.O.S discusses ways for teens to talk with their peers about gun violence in Crown Heights.

Funds running out

Amy Ellenbogen, project director at the Crown Heights Mediation Center, parent group of YO S.O.S., said this year they had so many people apply that they didn't have space to accept everyone. The kids who didn't make it may not have another chance: YO S.O.S. is funded by a Department of Justice grant that expires in 2013. They are working on finding other funding, but haven't had success yet.

This year, the group is putting together an Arts to End Violence Festival, and the teens are soliciting artwork from their classmates and friends by April 1. Nearly all the kids in the room, including Rezziea "Rezzy" Alexander, 16, have lost friends to gun violence. Alexander says that she was almost shot near her home in Brownsville, and insists that outreach programs like YO S.O.S. are the answer. She explains how the program taught her to control her temper, saying it also teaches the teens in the group how to "de-escalate situations and just walk away."

Danielle Tcholakian
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

In their words

Claudlin Pierre Louis
12th grade, 17 years old, lives in East New York, goes to school in Downtown Brooklyn

"When I got to this program I wasn't really an outspoken person, I was always quiet. When I'm nervous, I get quiet. But ever since I joined this I've learned how to become more of a leader: I speak out more, I stand for what I believe in more. It's also helped me with my schoolwork because when we have presentations I can be more calm and speak up when I need to, I don't stutter as much."

Rezziea "Rezzy" Alexander
11th grade, 16 years old, lives in Brownsville, goes to school in Manhattan

"Before I came here I was a hothead, everything would get me upset and I had a really bad temper. Because where I come from we always resort to violence first, and since I've been here it really changed my life. I don't get as mad as I used to, I just walk away from certain situations — I let stuff roll off my back."

In the news

Teen shot, killed by police in Brooklyn

A 16-year-old boy was shot and killed by two NYPD patrol officers in East Flatbush after he pointed a gun at them, cops said.

The shooting occurred on Saturday night. Two plainclothes patrol officers pulled up to "a group of males" in front of 473 East 52 St. and noticed one of the males break away from the group when he saw the officers.

Cops said that the boy, Kimani Gray, turned and pointed a .38 caliber revolver at the officers. Both officers fired at the boy, cops said, "striking him about the body."

He was pronounced dead on arrival at Kings County Hospital. Police said a loaded .38 caliber Rohm's Industry revolver was recovered at the scene.

METRO/DT

Clarification

On Feb. 26, 2013, Metro ran a story about the government of Iceland attempting to ban hard-core online pornography, with the focus of the article being on "extreme" porn. The story was illustrated with a Getty photograph of model and Internet entrepreneur Danni Ashe. Ms. Ashe is not associated with extreme pornography.

Quinn, officially in on historic mayoral run

New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, considered a front-runner to be New York's next mayor, officially launched her candidacy yesterday for the job that would make her the city's first female and first openly gay mayor.

The Democratic Quinn, 46, made her announcement on Twitter, saying: "It's official. I'm running for mayor to fight for the middle class."

In a video linked to her tweet, Quinn talked about the importance of safe streets, improved schools, affordable child care and housing and the creation of good-paying jobs.

Quinn has the support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, according to his aides. Bloomberg's 12-year stint in City Hall comes to a close at the end of the year due to term limits.

▶ Quinn

GETTY IMAGES

Quinn, a former tenant organizer, has been a member of the City Council since 1999 and was elected Speaker in 2006.

Launching a "walk and talk" tour of the city's myriad neighborhoods, in the video Quinn urged New Yorkers to "put those sensible shoes on and come on out with us."

In her video, Quinn said she loved New Yorkers for "how colorful they are, how — in the best of all possible ways — crazy they are."

Quinn is married to Kim Catullo, an attorney.

REUTERS

Her opponents

Other contenders in the mayoral race, either officially or likely, include Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, former Comptroller Bill Thompson, Comptroller John Liu and former Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Joseph Lhota.

Quoted

"It's official. I'm running for mayor to fight for the middle class."

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE QUINN, MAKING HER ANNOUNCEMENT ON TWITTER

On the street

Metro spoke to people in City Hall Park:

"I've only heard good things about her. I like females in office. I think they think more holistically." ***– Sarah Lockyer, 35, Tribeca, restaurant magazine editor-in-chief***

"I just moved to the city. Of the candidates I know so far, I'm most excited about her." ***– Jeffrey Cox, 44, Hell's Kitchen, graphic designer***

"I think Bloomberg should have a fourth term. He should change the law again." ***– Erica Valentine, 36, Brooklyn, public relations coordinator***

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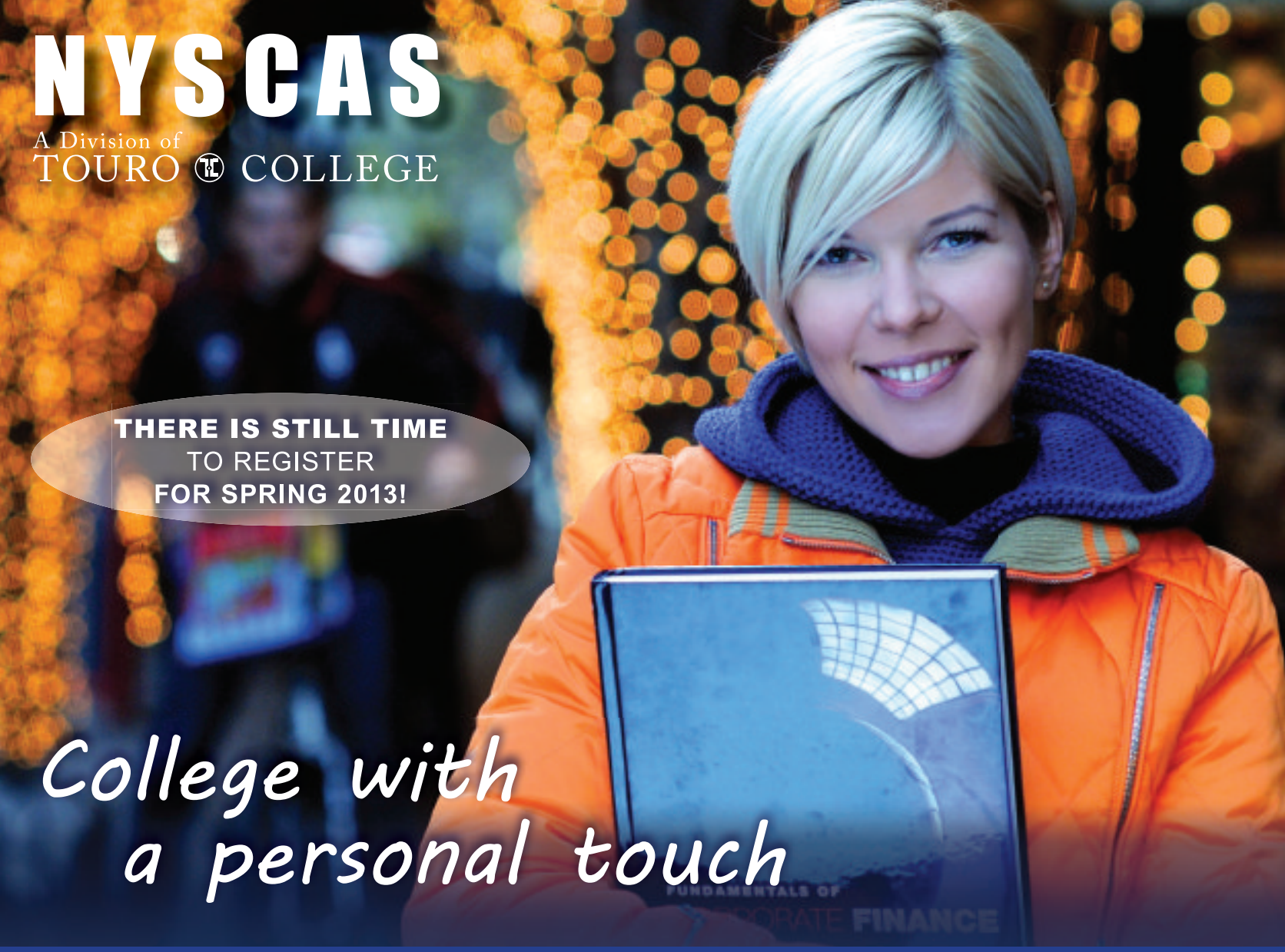

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Police involved in SI shooting

NYPD

▶ Police recovered this .44-caliber revolver from the car.

At 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, two NYPD detectives and an officer from the Staten Island Gang Squad were involved in a shooting, police reported.

The detectives and officer attempted to stop a white 2012 Toyota Camry on Manor Road near North Gannon Avenue, cops said. Police had reportedly received a tip that the driver had a gun.

The officers were in plainclothes, but reportedly had their shields displayed when approaching the vehicle. The driver attempted to flee, and in the process pinned one of the detectives against another vehicle with his car.

Police say the driver reached for a gun. Another officer then shot the driver in the torso.

The driver tried to drive off, but crashed into several other cars and eventually hit a utility pole on Gansevoort Boulevard and North Gannon Avenue. He jumped out of his car and tried to run, but was caught by members of the Gang Squad.

The driver, Clinton James, 33, was taken to Richmond University Medical Center and is reportedly listed in stable condition.

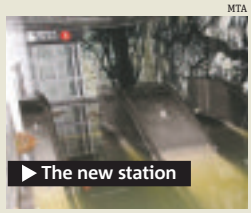
Cops said they found a loaded .44-caliber revolver in the car.

The two detectives and officer were also taken to Richmond University Medical Center to be treated, and police say they are in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries.

DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

'Old' South Ferry station to open temporarily

MTA


▶ The new station

The old South Ferry subway stop is back on line.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that the 1 train will return to the old station in the first week of April as a temporary replacement for the new stop, flooded during superstorm Sandy.

About 10,000 daily riders go through the station, he said.

The new station was flooded 80 feet deep with about 15 million gallons of water, the governor added.

"The MTA has a long, tough job ahead as it tackles the immense job of virtually rebuilding the new South Ferry terminal station," he said.

ALISON BOWEN

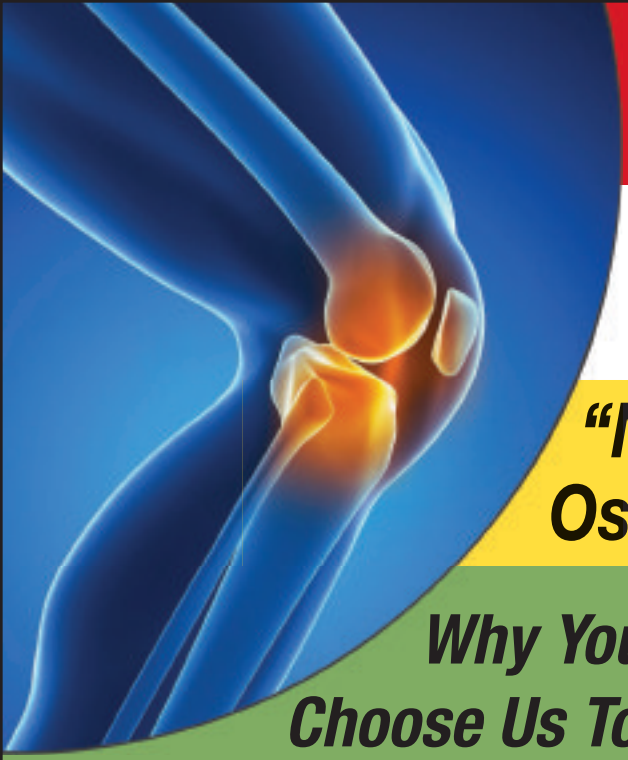
Women. Ending violence

▶ These NYC women protested the violence toward women in Bangladesh.

DON EMMERT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A spotlight on violence against women

A group of women and men marched to call for an end to violence against women on March 9 in New York City, on the occasion of International Women's Day. Marchers also gathered in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington and Chicago for protests. METRO



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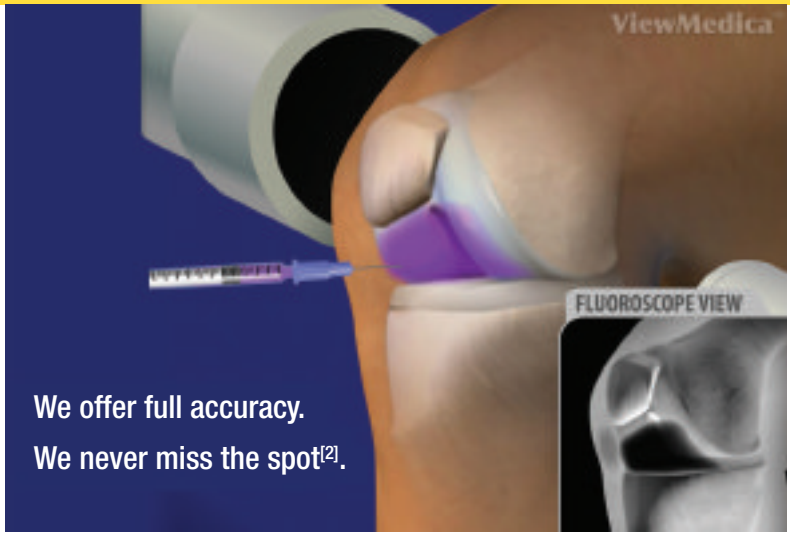

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News in brief

'Cannibal Cop' jury resumes deliberations

NEW YORK. The jury has not yet reached a verdict for former police officer Gilberto Valle, who is accused of plotting to kidnap, kill and cook

FACEBOOK

▶ Valle

women and will resume deliberations today.

Valle is accused of conspiring to kidnap women who prosecutors say he plotted online to kill and eventually cook. His defense has portrayed the online communications as sexual fantasies that were not criminal. ● ALISON BOWEN

Suspect arrested in teen groping

QUEENS. Police arrested a suspect yesterday who forcibly touched a teen girl and exposed his genitals inside a Queens library on March 4.

According to police, Hector Troche, 56, approached a 15-year-old victim inside the Broadway branch of the library in Long Island City. He grabbed her crotch and exposed himself before fleeing. No injuries were reported.

Troche was charged with sex abuse, forcible touching and public lewdness. ● LAURA SHIN

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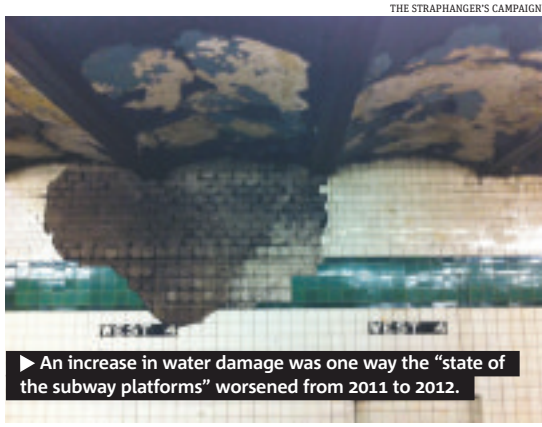


▶ An increase in water damage was one way the "state of the subway platforms" worsened from 2011 to 2012.

Water damage, graffiti worse in MTA stations

Transit advocacy group Straphangers Campaign released the results of a survey conducted between May 28 and Aug. 10 of last year, analyzing the state of 251 subway platforms at 120 stations.

The survey found several areas of improvement: The number of garbage bags left on stations was down, as was the number of staircases in disrepair, exposed wires, cracks in the floors and broken lights.

The platforms scored almost 100 percent on the presence of garbage cans and the absence of overflowing garbage cans.

But while those physical conditions were better than or as good as the survey the year before found, the appearance of some platforms had worsened when it came to water damage — well before superstorm Sandy wrecked havoc throughout the subway system.

10

The survey also concluded riders had a 10 percent chance of spotting a rat on their commute.

"Substantial graffiti" was found at 27 percent of all platforms, up from 20 percent in 2011.

The 251 platforms they looked at made up 28 percent of all 909 platforms citywide.

Danielle Tcholakian
danielle.tcholakian@metro.us

Protest. Free Tibet

▶ Other protestors marched from the United Nations to the Chinese Consulate.

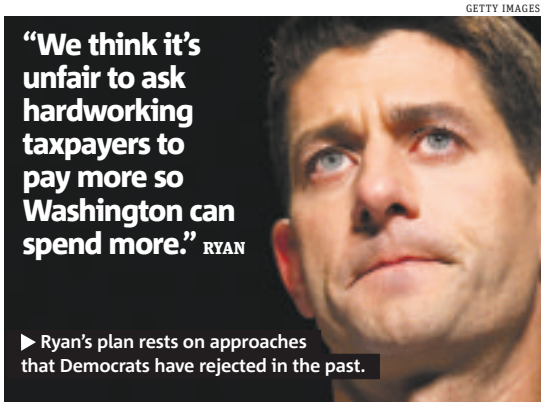
JULIA FURLAN/METRO

Marchers push to Free Tibet

Protestors took to the streets to mark the 54th anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day yesterday. The date marks the anniversary of the 1959 uprising in Tibet against China. Marchers walked across the Brooklyn Bridge. ● METRO

Ryan says budget deal possible as he readies his own proposal

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Ryan's plan rests on approaches that Democrats have rejected in the past.

The Republicans' point person on fiscal issues in Congress said yesterday that compromise with President Barack Obama is possible on taxes and spending even though his soon-to-be-unveiled budget plan faces certain rejection from Obama's Democrats.

Rep. Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, acknowledged that Democrats who control the Senate are likely to defeat his proposal to repeal Obama's signature health care law and other elements of his plan to balance the budget within 10 years.

But Ryan, whose ideas on taxes and spending gained national prominence when he was selected as the Republican vice presidential candidate last year, said Democrats and Republicans might be able to agree on less dramatic steps that would narrow budget deficits in coming years.

"There are things that we can do that don't offend either party's philosophy, that doesn't require someone to surrender their principles, that make a good down payment on getting this debt and deficit under control," Ryan said on "Fox News Sunday."

Ryan had lunch with Obama last week as part of an effort by the president to reach out to Republican lawmakers to resolve a fiscal standoff that has slowed economic growth and generated repeated crises over the past two years.

"This is first time I've ever had a conversation with the president lasting more than, say, two minutes, or a televised exchange," Ryan said of their meeting. **REUTERS**

Similar cuts, different results

Ryan's plan to balance the budget in 10 years is a dramatic change from last year's plan, which also envisioned $5 trillion in cuts but would not have balanced the budget until 2040.

Ryan's budget-balancing efforts are helped by the $620 billion in tax increases on the wealthy that Obama won in a Jan. 1 deal to avert the "fiscal cliff."

But further tax increases are out of the question, he said.

Both Republicans and Democrats want to simplify the tax code to reduce the tax breaks and loopholes that have proliferated since the last comprehensive rewrite in 1986.

In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Taliban attacks

Afghanistan President Karzai criticizes US, exposing tension

KABUL. The top U.S. general in Afghanistan expressed dismay yesterday at remarks by President Hamid Karzai, who suggested that Washington benefited from Taliban attacks on his country.

Karzai's remarks, delivered during the first visit by new U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, further strained already fraught ties between Karzai and the Western allies who are fighting to protect his government from insurgents. **REUTERS**

Jeb Bush not thinking about presidential bid — yet

WASHINGTON. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush appeared on five morning talk shows yesterday to plug his new book on immigration, but he said his heightened visibility does not mean he is reentering politics or planning a White House run — not yet, anyway.

The talk-show marathon capped a busy week of public appearances for Bush, one of several Republicans seen as potential contenders for the 2016 presidential nomination. Bush said it is too early to seriously ponder a White House bid.

"I've decided to defer any consideration of it until the proper time ... which is out more than a year from now, for sure," Bush said on CNN's "State of the Union" show. **REUTERS**

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Cardinals pray before start of the conclave to choose new pope

GETTY IMAGES

▶ No conclave in the past century has lasted than more than five days.

Roman Catholic cardinals prayed yesterday for spiritual guidance ahead of a closed-door conclave to choose a new pope to lead the church at one of the most difficult periods in its history.

Cardinals will hold a final pre-conclave meeting today to discuss the state of their church, left reeling by the abdication last month of Pope Benedict and struggling to deal with a string of sexual abuse and corruption scandals.

The 115 cardinals who will take part in the secret ballots, which start on March 12, fanned out around Rome yesterday to hold myriad Masses, either in the quiet of private chapels or in the grandeur of Rome's great cathedrals and basilicas.

Each cardinal is traditionally assigned to a church in the Italian capital, and congregations swelled in parishes visited by those considered the most likely papal contenders — such as Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"We're all preparing for the conclave because we need to make the right decision to decide who is going to be the new pope," Scherer told a small Baroque church in the heart of Rome, crammed with well-wishers.

He was later driven away in a minivan with darkened windows, declining to speak to the waiting hoards of reporters — a taste of the pressures to come if he should become the first non-European to be elected pope in some 1,300 years.

Just up the road, another non-European touted as a possible candidate, U.S. Cardinal Sean O'Malley, also received star treatment as he arrived for Mass in ornate vestments.

"I say sincerely that we hope this is your last visit as cardinal," said parish priest father Rocco Visca, prompting loud applause and cheers from the well-heeled congregation. **REUTERS**

In the news

South Africa's Nelson Mandela discharged from hospital

JOHANNESBURG. Former South Africa President Nelson Mandela has been discharged from hospital after routine tests and is well, the government said yesterday.

"The doctors have completed the tests. He is well, and, as before, his health remains under the management of the medical team," it said in a statement.

The 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader was admitted to the hospital on Saturday for a scheduled medical checkup. He spent the night in the hospital in the capital, Pretoria, and had returned to his Johannesburg home, the statement said. A spokesman for President Jacob Zuma said doctors treated Mandela for a pre-existing condition consistent with his age. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mandela

New Venezuela election begins

CARACAS. Venezuela has fired the starting gun in a highly charged election race likely to pit Hugo Chavez's preferred successor, acting President Nicolas Maduro, against centrist opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

The pair have until today to register their candidacy for the April 14 vote, which will determine whether Chavez's self-styled nationalist-socialist revolution will live on in the OPEC nation, home to the world's largest proven oil reserves. **REUTERS**

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

Iran blocks tool to get around Internet filter

Iranian authorities have blocked the use of most "virtual private networks," a tool that many Iranians use to get around an extensive government Internet filter, Iranian media quoted an official as saying yesterday.

A widespread government Internet filter prevents Iranians from accessing many sites on the official grounds they are offensive or criminal.

Many Iranians evade the filter through use of VPN software, which provides encrypted links directly to private networks based abroad, and can allow a computer to behave as if it is based in another country. **REUTERS**

Italy, Greece confirm hostages killed in Nigeria

Seven foreign hostages kidnapped last month by a Nigerian Islamist group from a construction company compound have been killed, the Italian and Greek foreign ministries said yesterday.

The al Qaeda-affiliated group Ansaru announced on Saturday that it had killed the hostages seized on Feb. 7 in the northern state of Bauchi because of attempts by Nigerian and British forces to free them.

It published grainy photos purporting to show the bodies of a Briton, an Italian, a Greek and four Lebanese workers snatched from the Lebanese firm Setraco's premises.

Foreign governments had not been able to confirm the killings until yesterday. **REUTERS**

Thousands in anti-nuclear protest two years after Fukushima

Thousands of protesters marched in the Japanese capital yesterday calling on the government to shun nuclear power, a day before the second anniversary of an earthquake and tsunami that triggered the world's worst atomic disaster in 25 years.

Japan is still coming to terms with the disaster that ravaged its northeastern region two years ago — the earthquake and tsunami killed more than 15,000 people.

"It's becoming more and more important for us to protest. I do this for my children, we can't leave a mess of nuclear power behind," said a mother of two marching in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, chanting "Stop nuclear! Protect our children!"

"People and the media are starting to forget Fukushima and what happened there," said the woman.

The nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi plant forced 160,000 people from their homes, many of them will never return. It also sparked an unprecedented protest movement against nuclear power. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A recent survey showed that about 70 percent of Japanese want to phase out nuclear power eventually.

Quoted

"The movement seems to have gotten quieter because we had to go back to the drawing board when the [Liberal Democratic Party] got voted back in."

NNOBUKO KAMEYAMA, A 67-YEAR OLD RETIREE, HANDING OUT ANTI-NUCLEAR LEAFLETS

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Necklaces	Up To....$26,250	Rings.....	Up To....$50,250
Cocktails Rings	Up To....$15,250	Art Nouveau	Up To....$12,500
Charm Bracelets	Up To....$7,250	Lavalieres.....	Up To....$9,750
Earrings	Up To....$10,725	Garnets Jewelry	Up To....$1,000
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College? Nah. You can hack it — and see the world, too

In 2011, Hendrix College student Dale J. Stephens started receiving a lot of unexpected press. His website, UnCollege.org, delivered a hypercritical cost-benefit analysis of college at a time when many parents and students were questioning their faith in higher education for the first time.

In one of the many interviews Stephens gave that year, he casually mentioned that he was working on a book. He now admits that he probably should have said "thinking about," rather than "working on" his book, but the quote was published anyway and Stephens was soon approached by curious book agents.

Quoted

"If you want to be successful, you're going to have to go out and find it for yourself: live abroad, do internships, research, build your portfolio, feed your networking community."
STEPHENS

Stephens got around to writing the book, and the result was released last week: "Hacking Your Education: Ditch the Lectures, Save Tens of Thousands, and Learn More Than Your Peers Ever Will."

To be sure, Stephens approaches the issue from a unique perspective. With his family's begrudging support, he left his California public school at 12 and developed his own curriculum right up until he took the ACT and applied to colleges.

"I spent a lot of my time in college wondering, 'If I was able to get into college without going to high school, why is there any reason that I need to go to college to get into life?'" he says. "And why am I paying $40,000 a year for this, when I can figure out how to learn for free?"

This month, the 21-year-old Stephens is criss-crossing the country on a media blitz — From the "Today" show, to Katie Couric, to South by Southwest — preaching a vision of a free, unfiltered, self-generated education.

"It's about taking ownership and realizing that no one is going to give you an education," he says. "If you want to be successful,

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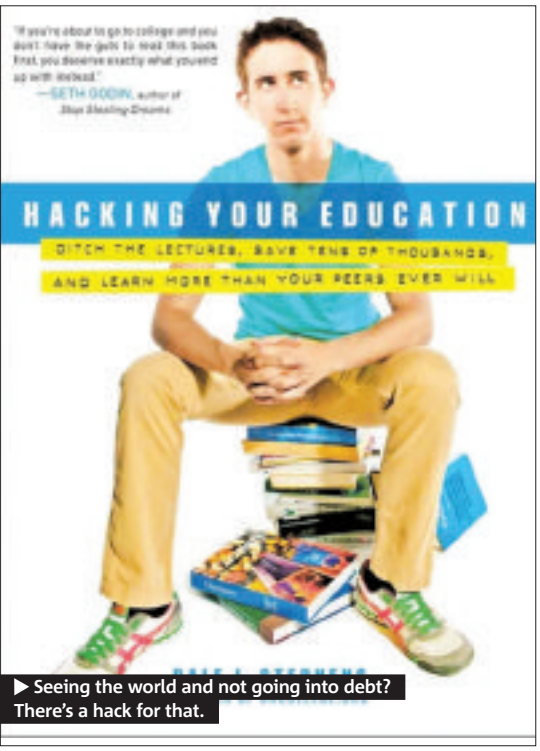

▶ Seeing the world and not going into debt? There's a hack for that.

you're going to have to go out and find it for yourself: live abroad, do internships, research, build your portfolio, feed your networking community. We think that a college is going to give us those things in one nice package, but the reality is that you're going to have to do it on your own whether you're in school or not."

Bruce Walsh
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Education books

An icon enters the philosophy department

Ayn Rand never developed a foothold in the philosophy curriculum at most U.S. colleges. For more than 20 years, a small group of professors nationwide has been pushing to change that. And now the professors have a series of textbooks intended for the college classroom: The University of Pittsburgh Press will publish a course of books called "The Ayn Rand Society Philosophical Studies."

"Rand is opposed to many entrenched ideas in the academy. She was an advocate of laissez-faire capitalism as a political philosophy. It's well-known that most people in the academy tend to be politically left wing," says James J. Lennox, co-editor of the new text. Based on lectures and papers by Ayn Rand Society members, the second volume, set to publish in June, will delve into her theory of epistemology. But AR Society members know that books alone won't get Rand into the classroom; they need professors willing to teach the material.

"The problem is getting more people trained to teach objectivism into positions in philosophy departments," says Lennox.

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THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson's take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

– Dorothy Robinson will return on March 20.

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, John Cusack has some business to tend to, Seth MacFarlane has found new forms of stimulation, Garry Shandling has an idea and Pink is not enjoying the changing seasons.

@johncusack pressing legal matters beckon. writs being jammed under my door — not really but sounds dramatic

@SethMacFarlane Drink ten cups of coffee and download "Dizzy Fingers" by the Carpenters. You will never need cocaine.

@GarryShandling Don't call me crazy. I say Dennis Rodman is selected new pope. Feels like it's his week.

@Pink I think this daylight savings time is really stupid and rude. I'm tired so screw you spring ahead!!!!

Pink

JT kills it yet again on 'SNL'

If this whole music thing doesn't work out, we're pretty sure **Justin Timberlake** would still make bank as a funnyman. The singer/actor hosted "SNL" for the fifth time this weekend, joining the "Five-Timers Club," an elite group of comedy head honchos like **Steve Martin**, **Tom Hanks** and **Paul Simon**, all of whom appeared in Timberlake's opening monologue Saturday. It seemed like **Lorne Michaels** knew that the way to viewers' hearts would be through bringing back a few "SNL" favorites: The Three Amigos reunited during the monologue, and **Andy Samberg** and JT teamed up for a "D— in a box" revival (that also featured the Festrunk Brothers).

Timberlake

JENNY + DOUG

'Smash' starlet OK with playing it safe

▶ Hilty's got a big personality — on "Smash," that is.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT

Ivy Lynn, the would-be diva on NBC's "Smash," would never waste a moment in the spotlight. But when we chatted with **Megan Hilty**, who plays the dynamic character, last Friday after her Carnegie Hall debut singing with the New York Pops, we saw that her public persona is perfectly polished, erring on the side of forgettable. She kicked off the night by claiming that it was "literally a dream come true" — and the cliches didn't end there.

What did it feel like to take that illustrious stage? "It's great to be in front of a live audience again."

Was she nervous about performing as herself, rather than playing a character? "That's the beauty of live theater: I'm never going to be perfect."

Would she be willing to get competitive if she had to face off against "Smash" co-star **Katharine McPhee** for a role, mirroring the theme on the show? "No, we all love each other."

And how would Ivy handle getting a solo concert at Carnegie? "She probably would have had many more costume changes than I did!"

Wait, did she just confirm our thoughts that her fictional persona would have made a more memorable impression?

The most interesting "confession" came when the actress revealed that she does in fact sit down to watch her own show during a dialogue with Pops conductor **Steven Reineke**. Thankfully, we did witness a glimmer of that big Ivy personality when the blonde adamantly insisted that the bottle of bubbly sitting nearby at the afterparty was reserved for her; we can relate to any woman who puts her stiletto down when it comes to free booze.

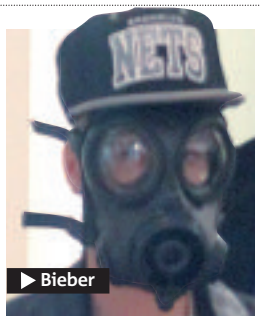
But here's our advice for Hilty: Take a page from "Silver Linings Playbook" media darling **Jennifer Lawrence**; the way to charm the press and public alike these days is less class, more sass. Maybe we should have hung around until after Hilty polished off that champagne.

— Additional reporting by ***T. Michelle Murphy***

Talking points

Bieber's gas mask explained

With **Justin Bieber**'s bummer of a week in London behind him, at least one mystery has been solved: the Canadian pop star's penchant for wearing a gas mask in public. "The gas mask Justin has been wearing around London is a joke between his friends, but people are starting to take it seriously," a source tells Us Weekly. "All his friends take turns wearing it as a joke to throw off the paparazzi. It's not a serious thing; they're just having fun with it."



▶ Bieber

Miley tries to squash rumors

While her fiance **Liam Hemsworth** is in his native Australia spending time with family, **Miley Cyrus** finds herself doing damage control, taking to Twitter to quash rumors that their relationship is in trouble. "I am so sick of L.A. And sick of the lies that come with it," she posted last week. "I didn't call off my wedding." Of course, being spotted out and about in Hollywood without her engagement ring probably doesn't help. But a source assures E! News that all is well in the Hemsworth-Cyrus household. "She is not listening to what everyone is saying about her and Liam," the source says. "Everything is fine between them, as far as I know."

Baby Baldwin will habla espanol

Hilaria Thomas Baldwin is already making plans for her daughter that might not include husband **Alec Baldwin**. "We're having a girl and we definitely want her to speak Spanish," Baldwin Thomas tells Us Weekly. "It's a little tricky because my husband doesn't speak Spanish, so that'll be a little tricky in the house. But maybe we will have our own conversation and he'll have to learn. We can talk behind his back. I cannot wait."

Where the stars were this weekend

1. Emile Hirsch, **David Gordon Green** and **Paul Rudd** bro'ed down at the "Prince Avalanche" dinner hosted by The Samsung Galaxy Experience on Saturday at SXSW in Austin, Texas.

2. Cute overload: **Ryan Reynolds** and **Emma Stone** caught up with their furry co-star at the New York premiere of "The Croods" yesterday.

4. Nice glasses, **Katy Perry**. The pop star took in a Los Angeles Kings game on Saturday.

5. "Drinking Buddies" stars **Ron Livingston, Anna Kendrick**, **Joe Swanberg** and **Olivia Wilde** grabbed a brewski at the after-party for the movie's premiere in SXSW on Saturday.

6. Victoria and **Harper Beckham** watched as **David Beckham** and Paris St. Germain beat Nancy 2-1 in Paris on Saturday.

1: JOHN SCIULLI/GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT
2: NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT
3: BUDA MENDES/GETTY IMAGES SPORT
4: NOEL VASQUEZ/GETTY IMAGES ENTERTAINMENT
5: EARL GIBSON III/WIREIMAGE
6: MARC PIASECKI/WIREIMAGE

Yes, Chad le Clos is really this pretty. The South African swimming champ was at the 2013 Laureus World Sports Awards yesterday in Brazil.

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myentertainment

Partly fact, partly fiction

Tom Folsom discusses 'Hopper,' his new bio on Dennis Hopper Among the truths he uncovered: He once shot a tree because he thought it was a bear

Dennis Hopper — actor, director, artist and husband to Michelle Phillips for eight days — died in 2010 having never put his turbulent life down on paper. Enter Tom Folsom. The documentarian and writer — of the best-seller "The Mad Ones: Crazy Joe Giallo and the Revolution at the Edge of the Underworld" — turns to another stranger-than-fiction life with "Hopper: A Journey Into the American Dream," a slim and rollicking ride through a life pronge to myth.

▶ The crazed life of Dennis Hopper, seen here in his mug shot, is retold in Tom Folsom's biography "Hopper," out now.

EYEVINE-REDUX

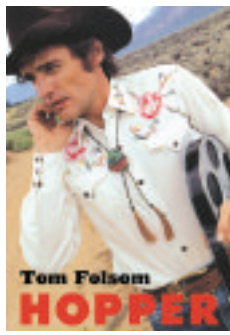
Hopper died in 2010. When did you get the idea for this book?
Late 2009, I'd say. I had gotten a book deal and I thought I'd try to help him finish his memoirs. He'd been trying to do his book for 30 years. I write a lot about gangsters and American outlaws, and Dennis' story to me had that outlaw quality to it.

The opening quotes that Kris Kristofferson song: "He's a walkin' contradiction, partly fact and partly fiction." How much of this book is fact and how much fiction?
For me the idea was to show that interplay. This is based on hard-core historical research. I went through old Warner Bros. files to find the story of the three-day showdown between Hopper and [director] Henry Hathaway [on the set of "From Hell to Texas"]. Then you talk to Don Murray, the star of that movie, and he was like, "Well, Dennis was definitely really, really difficult, but I don't remember a three-day showdown." I wanted to show both sides. A lot of times those two blend. Did he really go out and shoot a tree because he thought it was a bear? Yeah, he actually did.

The book doesn't just upchuck facts. It doesn't even mention all his films.
You can go on Wikipedia for that stuff nowadays. It relieves that burden if you want to do something interesting. A writer finds that the truth and compiles a narrative. If you want to learn about all his films, it's just a click away.

Matt Prigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Q&A



What perspective did you want to take on Hopper's life?

Dennis Hopper lived his life like it was a movie, but he never got that down on the page. I felt like I wanted to capture that spirit. I wanted to find out what was this crazy movie that begins with a boy in Texas and takes him to the top of a mountain in Peru, flying in his cast, hauling horses up the mountain, with tons of cocaine and tripping on acid. And the end of the ride is the guy is sick and watching old cowboy movies.

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Has viral marketing gone too far? An ad for a new film raises debate

What would you do if you saw a man strangling another man in an elevator? Would you step in and help? Would you call the police? Would you run like hell?

Some pseudo-sociologists-turned-filmmakers decided to test people's reactions to this shocking scenario in an online video called "Elevator Murder Experiment" (watch it at http://goo.gl/wKB1W).

But it's actually an advertisement for "Dead Man Down," the latest film from the original "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" director Niels Arden Oplev (and starring Noomi Rapace and Colin Farrell). The YouTube clip was created by viral video marketing agency Thinkmodo. So far it has more than 2 million views.

▶ The YouTube video has had more than 2 million hits.

"At no point was anyone in danger, even though it looks like it at some points," Michael Krivicka, co-founder of Thinkmodo and director of the video, told Metro World News. He hoped it would spark debate. "Social media is the new platform to reach moviegoers," he says. "A TV spot can only be watched. That's it. A YouTube video, however, can be shared, e-mailed, commented on, liked, etc. There is great power in that."

"It was a very controlled production," he adds.

All but one of the reactions were completely real, claims the director, including the guy who uses a fire extinguisher. In order to tie the project to "Dead Man Down," the last subject — a man who shows up with his dogs and films the murder with his phone — was actually an actor.

The staged part mimics a key scene in the film where one main character witnesses another lead character strangling someone to death. She records the incident on her phone — and later uses it for blackmail.

There are other subtle clues that tie the viral video to the movie. Krivicka says the last word flashed before the viewer sees the movie title is "revenge," another key theme of "Dead Man Down."

Michelle Castillo
METRO WORLD NEWS

JOHN BAER

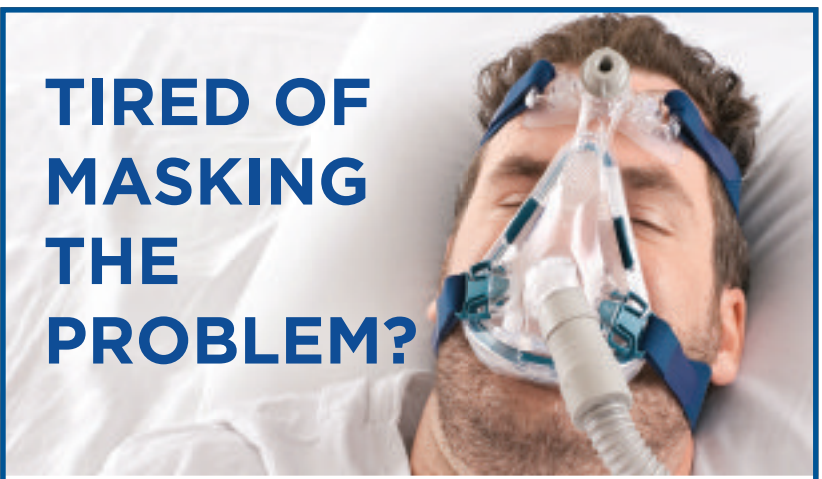
▶ Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace star in "Dead Man Down."

The backlash

Many comments left on the video's page say it could have gone all wrong if a bystander had a gun. Others are calling it a fake, which is OK with Krivicka.

"There is a big difference between advertising and viral marketing," he says. "A viral marketing video is designed to start conversations around the movie."

TIRED OF MASKING THE PROBLEM?



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TV watch list

ANIMAL PLANET

▶ The stars of "Catfishin' Kings" hold up their catch.

'The Bachelor'

REALITY. Tune in to see what lucky woman Bachelor Sean will soon break off an engagement with. **Season finale, 8 p.m., ABC**

'Hindenburg: The Last Flight'

MINI-SERIES. Spoiler alert: Things don't end up happily ever after on this famous 1930s zeppelin. **Series premiere, 8 p.m., Encore**

'Catfishin' Kings'

REALITY. This is a show about fisherman, but we also hope they live up to the name by making up fake girlfriends on the Web. **10 p.m., Animal Planet**

'Burning Love'

COMEDY. After the "Bachelor" finale, put the schlock in perspective with this smart, funny parody. **10 p.m., E!**

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A Bronx tale told by a Frenchman

Director Michel Gondry talks about working with high schoolers from the Bronx to shape his new film 'The We and the I' On the benefits of making an American film as a foreigner

WIREIMAGE

Michel Gondry is the director of the new film "The We and the I."

Michel Gondry has directed famous movie stars (Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") and musicians (the White Stripes, Kanye West). His latest film — his first since "The Green Hornet" — boasts no one you've heard of. "The We and the I," out now, is the result of a four-year process with teens from an after-school arts program in the Bronx. Two years were spent in workshops pounding a narrative together, and the result is a raucous comedy about high schoolers on one seriously long bus ride home.

The actual shooting of this film was so delayed that, by the time it began, some of the cast were no longer in high school. Was that strange for them?

Some of the cast were embarrassed to play the story they had experienced two yeas ago. The workshop lasted two years, so they'd grown and changed. Every time the film was delayed, we were worried they were going to grow out of the story. One of the kids, one of the bullies, had become much taller. He had to drop out.

Given the length of the workshop, it seems like the film is really bigger than just the film itself.

For me, the workshop was equal to the film. I told them I didn't know if we would ever get to shoot it, but we would still have a great experience together. We were all committed to the project. I remember the day before shooting began, one of the producers teared up. It was the beginning of the end of our time together.

How do you tend to interact with your actors?

One thing I'm trying to achieve when I make a movie is to make sure I live amongst [my cast]. I like exchange. I like shooting people like we are one family, the way I used to shoot my brother with my dad's camera. I like to reproduce this feeling. Sometimes filmmaking can become a sort of ritual. My idea is to try and break people of rituals, to get them to behave in a certain loose way.

What are some of your tricks for getting actors to loosen up?

We had a secret story for each of them. I would let the camera roll and let the actors talk about their exes, about what happened. Then with them in that frame of mind, I would ask them to say their lines, with the same tone of voice, the same emotion. I practiced [working with actors] over the years. I like to ask them weird questions. Like with the kids, I would ask them — this is a joke — "Who do you prefer: your dad or your mom?" It would loosen them up and get the right emotion.

Matt Prigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Q&A

How did you gain these kids' trust?

Sometimes it helps to be a foreigner. It helped in many situations, the fact that I was coming from another country. People would not rely on stereotypes. In general, I get curious with people. I don't try to talk too much. It's like when you meet someone and you're just having dinner with them. You listen to what they have to say. It's very obnoxious, people who speak more than they listen. When you apply this as a director, if you don't talk constantly, and you listen, then people give you more trust.

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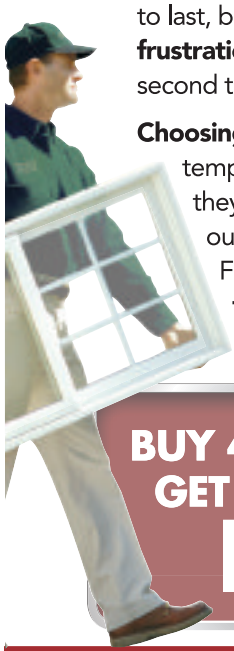

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myentertainment

‘Oz’ follows the Yellow Brick Road to No. 1

There was no place like “Oz” at the weekend box office.

Walt Disney Co.’s big-budget 3-D movie “Oz the Great and Powerful” amassed $80.3 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales, the biggest domestic debut of 2013. The prequel, starring James Franco, added $69.9 million in international markets, Disney said, for a combined $150.2 million opening around the world.

“Oz” dominated all other movies over the weekend, according to studio estimates released on Sunday. Another family film, “Jack the Giant Slayer,” finished a distant No. 2 with $10 million domestically during its second weekend. The Melissa McCarthy comedy “Identity Thief” landed third with $6.3 million from Friday through Sunday.

The opening numbers for “Oz” provided a strong start for the $200 million production, a prequel to the 1939 Hollywood classic “The Wizard of Oz.” The movie stars Franco as a small-time magician who is whisked by hot air balloon to a magical land where he is mistaken for a wizard. Michelle Williams, Mila Kunis and Rachel Weisz play three witches the wizard encounters on his journey.

The big debut for “Oz” outshined the sluggish opening a week earlier for “Jack the Giant Slayer,” which cost $189 million to produce. It pulled in $27.2 million at North American theaters during its first three days.

The weekend’s other new release, thriller “Dead Man Down,” landed in fourth place with $5.4 million. The movie stars Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace as two strangers who join together to seek revenge against a New York crime lord. REUTERS

Box office

DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

▶ James Franco and Michelle Williams star in “Oz the Great and Powerful,” which made a ton of money this weekend.

Top 5 earners

1. **“Oz the Great and Powerful,”** $80.3 million
2. **“Jack the Giant Slayer,”** $10 million
3. **“Identity Thief,”** $6.3 million
4. **“Dead Man Down,”** $5.4 million
5. **“Snitch,”** $5.1 million

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Some serious side effects seen with failed Merck niacin drug

Unexpected serious side effects arose in a huge study of a Merck & Co. long-acting niacin drug aimed at raising good HDL cholesterol, according to data released on Saturday, possibly adding another nail to the coffin of niacin therapy for heart patients.

A European medical journal last week said the drug caused concerning muscle weakness, especially in Asian patients.

But the results presented on Saturday at the American College of Cardiology scientific meeting in San Francisco painted an even more troubling picture of the medicine.

Researchers found patients taking the Merck drug had significantly higher rates of bleeding — 2.5 percent vs. 1.9 percent — and infections — 8.0 percent vs. 6.6 percent — that they called unexpected.

Significantly higher numbers of patients taking Tredaptive also experienced serious health problems that researchers called known side effects of niacin. Those included new onset diabetes (9.1 percent vs. 7.3 percent), diabetic complications (11.1 percent vs. 7.5 percent) and gastrointestinal problems (4.8 percent vs. 3.8 percent).

Professor Jane Armitage led the study and called the findings disappointing.

"Still," she said, "finding out a drug is not helping people is just as important as finding that it has benefits."

But Dr. Steven Nissen, head of cardiology at Cleveland Clinic, had some serious criticism about the study's design, execution and conclusions, and was not prepared to write off niacin therapy just yet for patients with very low HDL levels.

"Sometimes large and simple trials are large and sloppy trials," he said.

Among his concerns, Nissen cited the very large number of Asians in the study that could have skewed the results because Asians tend to not tolerate high-dose niacin. Nissen also said the baseline LDL levels of 66 for patients in the study were low and that those with higher LDL levels may have benefited from the drug.

The trial was not designed to show whether the adverse side effects were caused by the niacin or the anti-flushing drug, another potential failing.

But Armitage, a professor at the University of Oxford, said the results were consistent with an earlier failed niacin study that did not include laropiprant and that many of the side effects are known to be associated with niacin. **REUTERS**

The backstory

Niacin, a form of vitamin B, has been used for many years in the belief that its HDL-raising powers would help prevent heart attacks and strokes.

- Merck already has given up on the drug that combines extended-release niacin with an experimental agent called laropiprant, designed to prevent the uncomfortable facial flushing associated with niacin.
- When it was announced that the drug called Tredaptive had failed to prevent heart attacks, strokes, death and other complications in heart patients also taking drugs to lower bad LDL cholesterol, Merck said it would not seek U.S. approval and would stop selling it in the dozens of other countries where it was already available.

▶ Niacin has been used to help prevent heart attacks and strokes.

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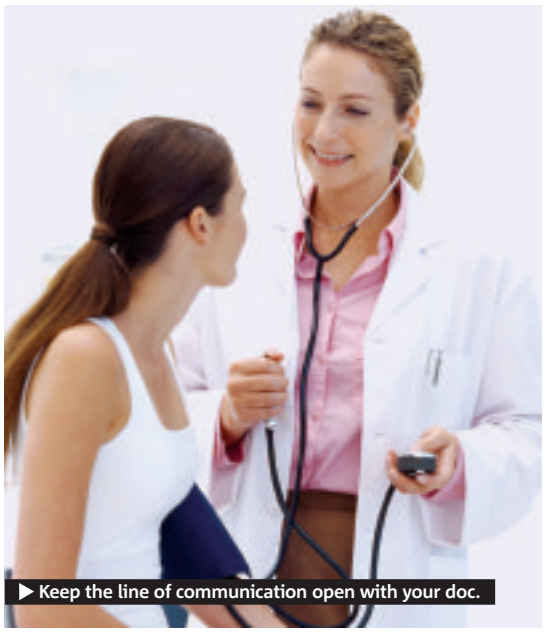
▶ Keep the line of communication open with your doc.
STOCKBYTE

Screening is an important part of preventive health care. Good results mean you can keep up what you're doing; not-so-good ones give you a chance to make changes. We asked Dr. Michael Smith, chief medical editor of WebMD.com, which tests the average person needs and when.

Don't fear results

"You're arming yourself with information to take action and change your diet or lifestyle."
DR. SMITH

In your 20s:

Men & Women:
- **Blood pressure:** "Everyone should get their blood pressure tested. How often depends on the result: certainly during your annual physical; if it's higher more often than that."
- **Diabetes:** "Two-thirds of adults are overweight and possibly prediabetic."
- **Skin cancer:** "Do regular self-exams [and] look for any changes. See your doctor if you're concerned."
- **HIV:** "Depending on sexual behavior, everyone should get tested at least once in their lives, especially when you're young."

Women:
- **Cervical cancer:** "Twenty-one is the recommended age for women to start pap smears."

Men:
- **Testicular cancer:** "The American Cancer Society recommends age 20."

In your 30s, add:

Men & Women:
- **Cholesterol:** "Anyone at risk should start in their 20s, but for everyone by age 35 it's more essential."
- **Glaucoma:** "There are no symptoms, but if you lose your sight from glaucoma, it doesn't come back."
- **Hypothyroid/ hyperthyroid:** "Testing is becoming more common, especially for women. The thyroid regulates metabolism and just about everything in the body."

Women:
- **HPV:** "Many women test positive in their 20s and it goes away. In your 30s, conditions should be monitored."

40s & older, add:

Men & Women:
- **Colorectal cancer:** "At age 50, the ACS recommends colorectal screening."
- **Osteoporosis:** "It's generally [by] age 50. Sometimes women with a family history get tested earlier."

Women:
- **Breast cancer:** "There's some controversy, but the ACS says at age 40 women should start mammograms every other year. Talk to your doctor about when to start testing."

Men:
- **Prostate cancer:** "Begin the discussion with your doctor at age 50. No one recommends regular PSA blood tests until then. But men at high risk begin in their 40s."

Linda Clarke
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Make this one simple move to get what you want in life

Zen in the City

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN
WWW.GABBYB.TV

Do you ever get angry and resentful because you're not getting what you want? Or do you feel your needs are not being met? If you do feel like this, then I have another question for you: Do you ask for what you want?

When you feel you're not getting what you want from others, the easiest thing to do is complain about it. But blaming other people for your feelings is the wrong way to approach the issue. The key to getting what you want is to ask for it.

Asking can be really uncomfortable for some folks. I see this often when it comes to asking for a raise, asking for help or merely asking someone to listen to what you have to say. As difficult as it can be to ask, it's important to realize that you won't get what you want until you're willing to put it out there.

If you tend to freak out about asking for what you want, it's time to shake off the fear and change your ways. What you'll come to learn is that, deep down, all people genuinely want to give. Therefore, when you ask for something from a place of authenticity and grace, your request will be met with mutual respect. Now's the time to create a new habit and get your asking muscles in motion!

*— **Gabrielle Bernstein** is the author of "Spirit Junkie."*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

▶ Stop acting small: Speak up and own your power.

LIFESIZE

How to do it

Begin asking for what you want by following these steps.

Accept that it may feel awkward at first. If you've spent a lot of time unwilling to ask for what you want, testing out new behavior will feel strange. Remember that the strangeness is a good sign. Regardless of how uncomfortable you feel, take this powerful action and step outside your comfort zone.

Get clear about what you're asking for. When you're clear about what you're asking for, your energy is committed to the request. If you're unclear, your energy wavers, which makes it more difficult to really get behind your ask. It's also really important to back up your request with positive intentions. When your request is backed with the energy of love, it will be received with love.

Just ask! The moment you notice yourself avoiding the chance to ask for what you want, move swiftly past your fear and just ask. Though you may be scared, this simple act of asking can change your life in an instant. You'll come to know a new sense of self-respect that will give others the freedom to respect you back.

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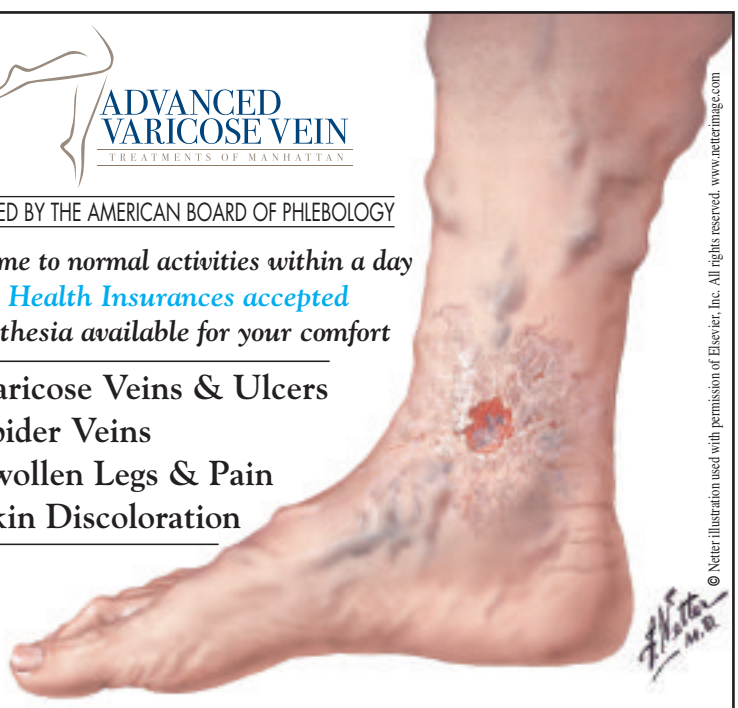

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▶ You love cooking; you love food. For a career in the kitchen, do you need the starched white linens of culinary school, or is it better to hop on the line?

Chefs dish on the age-old chicken vs. egg question

- It's a dilemma for any aspiring chef: Is it better to go to school or work first?
- Chefs from some of NYC's esteemed eateries weigh in
- They gathered for the Careers through Culinary Arts Program, which funds scholarships

SCHOOL FIRST

▶ "If you have experience before you go to school, I think it gives you an edge on learning so you can absorb things that you may be familiar with but not quite confident in. Start with school, get the tools you need and remember that the on-the-job training is really how you learn what the industry is all about." **MICHAEL LOMONACO, PORTER HOUSE NEW YORK**

▶ "It's important to go to school. Actually, if you can combine both, like working during a school break, it's even better. School is supposed to teach you the basics. The chef [will] teach you to connect what you learn. Nowadays I think it's important to study first, then go." **MATTEO BERGAMINI, SD26**

▶ "I recommend culinary school first. It gets you prepared in the sense of seeing the reality of what you're going into. It also helps you understand a lot of culinary terms that we use." **YUHI FUJINAGA, THE SEA GRILL**

VS.

RESTAURANT FIRST

▶ "I think it's great to go into a restaurant to make sure it's actually something you want to do. Culinary school's a pretty big investment in time and money." **MARC MURPHY, LANDMARC**

▶ "Working at a restaurant gives you all the tools to learn before you get [out] there. I worked in a restaurant first, and the moment I got to culinary school I felt like I had the biggest head-start in the world." **KELVIN FERNANDEZ, THE STRAND, AMERICAN BISTRO**

▶ "Work in a restaurant. It's about whether you like it or not. If you don't love it, you'll never make it. You have to live it, eat it and breathe it. And when you go to school, you learn things, and you learn a lot, but you need to see whether you're suited for it. And you can't tell until you get out there and work in the field." **SARABETH LEVINE, SARABETH'S**

Meredith Engel
meredith.engel@metro.us

Quoted

"I mean, it's not either/or, you need both."
MARCUS SAMUELSSON, RED ROOSTER HARLEM

Q&A: Do you need to go to culinary school?

▶ "You don't need to go, but I do think for some people it is worth it. It depends on the person. I personally didn't go to culinary school." **SAM YOO, TORRISI ITALIAN SPECIALTIES**

▶ "I went to culinary school and I dropped out. ... I'd say like 80 percent of my cooks are dropouts or they didn't go to school at all. Thomas Keller did not go school." **KYUNG UP LIM, MICHAEL'S**

▶ "I would say no. It's all about if you can do 80 hours a week and do 12 hours a day and get burned every day — that's when you know you want it. It's not necessarily you go to school, you learn it and you come out and be a chef — and that's what a lot of the schools make it out to be. There's a lot of really hard work before that happens." **JOSEPH FORTUNATO, EXTRA VIRGIN**

▶ "No, by no means. I've wasted a lot of money just going to school and then [realizing] it's not what it's like on the Food Network." **CHRIS WYMAN, SCARPETTA**

'It depends on the person'

▶ "Culinary school gives you the knowledge — even how to hold a knife, which is very good. But also, [at a] restaurant, if you have a very good chef, like a teacher, [it's almost like how] the culinary school teaches you." **MARIA LOI, LOI**

▶ "I think it depends on the person. I did not go to culinary school, but I know some very good cooks that did and I really think it depends on how you learn. I just went to a restaurant and asked if I could work for free, and that's how I learned." **SAM HENDERSON, WD-50**

▶ "I think culinary school gives you a great basis to learn the things that you really need to know to get started, but there's nothing really like restaurant experience. Working in a restaurant is definitely going to enhance your skill level. But culinary school is a great basis and I would never not recommend going to culinary school if you have the opportunity." **SEAN QUINN, CHADWICK'S**

▶ A free java isn't necessarily the thing that makes for happy employees.

The perks of being at work

It's safe to say we all want work to be fun, but fun isn't the only thing that makes for happy employees.

"While perks like free cappuccino, rock-climbing walls and nap rooms are very nice, they remain perks," says Doug Claffey, CEO of employee survey company, Workplace Dynamics. "What we have found is that while these benefits are nice to have, they don't drive true employee satisfaction." According to a 2012 Workplace Dynamics survey of 1.7 million workers, people most desire the chance to be heard as well as a "visionary and inspirational leader that employees are confident in." It probably doesn't hurt, though, if that leader wants to put in a foosball table.

LIFESIZE

They wouldn't call it work if it was supposed to be fun, right?

Fortune recently released a list of the Top 100 companies to work for. At the top of the list was Google, followed by the analytic software company SAS and CHG Healthcare Services in Salt Lake City. Each organization varies greatly in size and product, yet they are all developing a positive, successful environment. Looking closer, it appears these companies are doing many of the same things right.

Fun and freedom are a common thread for the companies on Fortune's list. "If it isn't fun, no one is going to be there for very long. Team outings, ping pong tournaments — whatever fits your culture — create opportunities to laugh and to see each other outside of just your day-to-day professional titles," explains Nick Worswick, corporate vice president and general manager, at Seamless.com.

Quoted

"If it isn't fun, no one is going to be there for very long."
NICK WORSWICK

CHG Healthcare, number three on the list, keeps things lively with employee talent shows and trivia tournaments. Casual get-togethers and friendly competition often aid in talent recognition and team-building.

These tactics keep employees happy, which is vital in the hospitality business. Coming in at No. 28 on Fortune's list was Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, owners of Philadelphia's Hotel Palomar and Hotel Monaco. "At Kimpton, fostering a culture of care with a focus on fun has proven to be a recipe for success," explains Mike Depatie, CEO, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants. "Our employees are our brand, which is why we place an incredible amount of emphasis on making them feel their best at work."

Julia West
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Exercise your initiative instead of waiting for someone else to make the first move. Your chances for achievement are excellent, if you utilize your talents.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If you want to accomplish as much as possible, don't be afraid to request assistance. You'll get no volunteers if nobody knows you need help.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** It will take a positive frame of mind to realize any of your hopes and expectations. Don't allow any doubts, even a small one, to get a toehold.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** The rate of your accomplishment can be enhanced if you clearly define your goals. Clarity will provide the added time you need to get everything done.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Try to avoid involvements that would inhibit your independence and mobility. Additionally, you need activities that are mentally challenging instead of physically routine.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Normally you're not overjoyed by changes not of your making, yet you'll be able to adapt quite advantageously to today's unexpected developments.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't discount your mate's ideas about issues of mutual importance, even if they are very different from your own. His or her view might be clearer than yours.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You won't be content frittering your time away. Tackling a weighty endeavor will be the only thing that brings you happiness.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Devote some time to an activity or a sport that you enjoy. Taking a break from your everyday routines could refurbish your psyche and attitude.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If at all possible, try to entertain some friends to whom you feel socially obligated. Contact them as early as possible to join you in an impromptu get-together.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You can best gratify your restlessness by getting in touch with a friend whom you haven't seen much lately. It won't matter where you meet, you'll just enjoy each other's company.

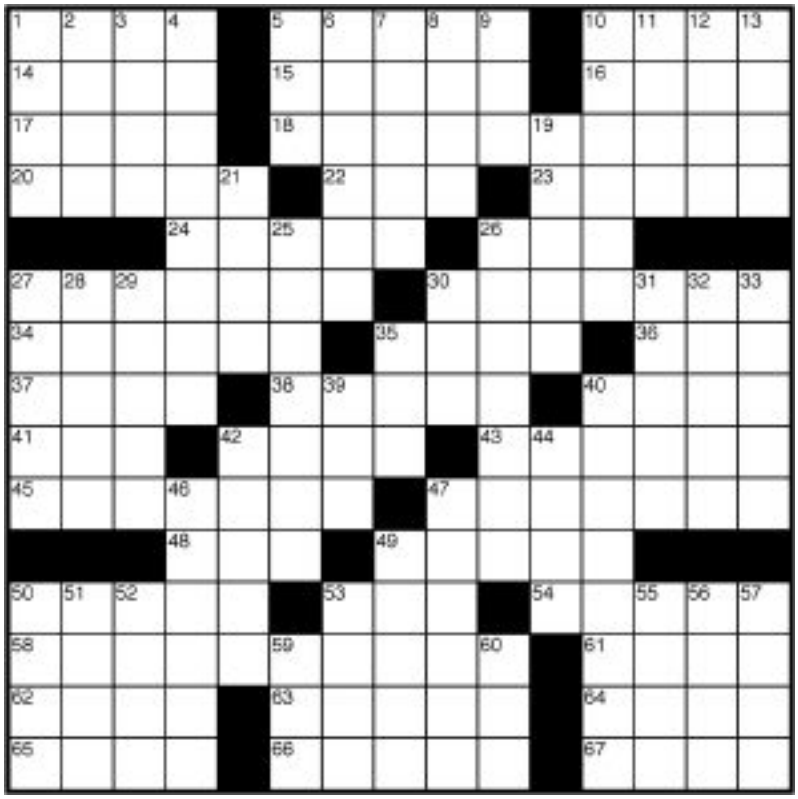
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Your prospects for achieving success continue to look good, especially if you choose to work on an idea you've been contemplating that could make or save you some money.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword

Across

1 African antelope
5 "Gadzooks!"
10 Kind of dust
14 — — equal basis
15 Hologram maker
16 Ms. McClurg of sitcoms
17 Beak
18 Art of casting (hyph.)
20 Tankard
22 Goddess of dawn
23 Locales
24 Reeves of "Speed"
26 Rapa —
27 Singer — Flack
30 Glove parts
34 Spotted cat
35 Funny Bombeck
36 Outlaw's "must"
37 Not we
38 Wing it (hyph.)
40 Keyboard error
41 Comics caveman
42 Breezy greeting
43 Measuring worm
45 Speaking hoarsely
47 Fan
48 Hwys.
49 Grave risk
50 Shooting marble
53 Herd of whales
54 Sag
58 Flotation devices (2 wds.)
61 Galley movers
62 Takes a powder
63 Fitzgerald et al.
64 Elevator pioneer
65 PDQ
66 Single-handed
67 High NCO ranking



Down

1 Gemsbok cousins
2 College credit
3 Roy's partner
4 Doubtful
5 Brownie
6 Lead ore
7 "— — Like It"
8 Dict. entries
9 Mr. in Bombay
10 Baseball's "Iron Horse"
11 Garfield's housemate
12 Filmmaker — Wertmuller
13 MA, BA, etc.
19 Dry-heat bath
21 Fiddler of yore
25 Reaches
26 More agile
27 Generator part
28 Golfer Lorena —
29 Honks
30 Part of TGIF
31 "The Mummy" setting
32 Delhi coin
33 Be stertorous
35 "Evil Woman" rockers
39 Mr. Hammarskjold
40 Machine shops have one
42 Apple product
44 Classical poet
46 Mass figure
47 Humiliate
49 Picasso's name
50 Has the flu
51 Biting fly
52 Home-loan agcy.
53 Shore bird
55 Dobbin's dinner
56 Not a repro.
57 Furtive whisper
59 Hot drink
60 Weathervane dir.

Letters

Regan era was start of big debt

RE: "AUTOMATIC ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS" (METRO MARCH 7) You dumb cluck, it was Ronnie Raygun who started the humongous debt. Under Carter it was "peanuts" (no pun intended). Raygun and Bush left a huge debt like never before for Clinton. Democrat Clinton cleaned up the debt. Raygun gave the store away in his eight years, spending on everything and giving the rich their huge tax breaks. Cutting taxes for the rich is the same as spending on a program, because it is money going out of the U.S. Treasury. In comes Republican GWB (Guy Without Brains) and back goes the debt and soon the democrat surplus is gone. GWB accomplished this vanishing act by "spending" $10 billion a month for two wars and "spending millions of dollars of our money to give the wealthy huge tax cuts." So "spending" is not just when the Democrats fund a social program or healthcare or the environment, it's when these idiot Republicans blow our money spending on the rich and the military and corporations. That dummy Rumney talked about buying ships like they were candy bars! One can only imagine what conditions would be like today had Bush or McLame been in office the past four years.

LARRY BLONG, VIA E-MAIL

Filibuster was a waste of time

RE: TOM FOREMAN COLUMN "DRONING ON" (METRO MARCH 8) Mr. Foreman's editorial on March 8 on Senator Rand Paul's filibuster was nothing short of garbage. He was not fighting a lost cause. In fact, he was wasting valuable time that should have been spent addressing the budget and impeding the safety of the nation by further delaying the confirmation of the head of the CIA, Chuck Hagel. A lost cause is tax reform. Addressing climate change and Wall Street reform are actual lost causes. What Senator Rand Paul and the other clowns that rode together in their clown car to the house floor to pontificate the magnitude of how out-of-touch, inept and viable candidates for a drone strike they are for terrorizing the nation with such in eloquent speech and mindless dribble. What was made painfully clear in this op-ed was Tom Foreman's inability to identify what truly merits writing about to inform the public and to inspire readers rather than solicit their scorn. **KING E. JOHNSON, VIA E-MAIL**

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GO TIME FOR REVIS?

With free agency beginning tomorrow, trade window now open for Jets ◗ Rival executive doesn't see deal soon ◗ Team in salary-cap hell without many options

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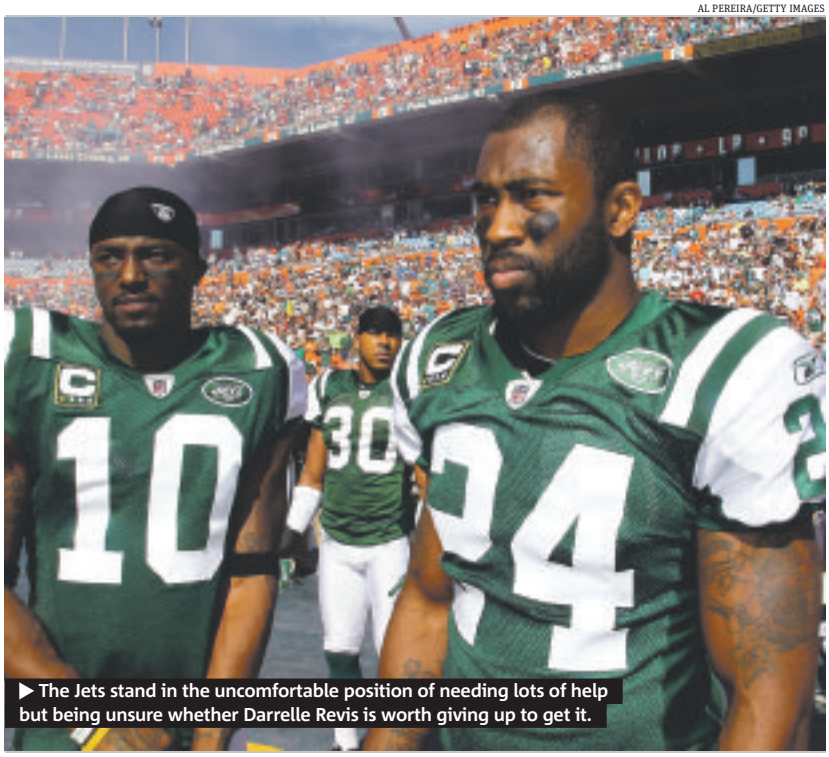

▶ The Jets stand in the uncomfortable position of needing lots of help but being unsure whether Darrelle Revis is worth giving up to get it.

According to men who have been in a similar position to Jets general manager John Idzik, trading away star cornerback Darrelle Revis would involve a fundamental shift for the franchise and signal the start of a rebuilding era. But, they say, it might be the right thing to do.

Reports have filtered in every few days for the past six weeks linking Revis to any number of NFL teams, all citing the Jets' interest in trading away the game's top cornerback.

Revis, who has an opt-out clause after this season, is set to become an unrestricted free agent in 2014, and the Jets might not be able to re-sign him because of salary-cap constraints.

But the Jets might not be moving in on a trade anytime soon. One AFC executive told Metro that the Internet banter about the Jets getting multiple first-round picks this year and next year "is a complete pipe dream with no basis in reality." The executive spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't allowed to comment publicly on personnel moves for other teams.

They may be left with no alternatives, however, and seem to be exploring their options. The AFC executive squashed a recent report that said three teams have emerged as favorites for Revis.

According to the chatter he's hearing, that isn't the case and the Jets aren't that far along in the process.

"I think it is fair to characterize the Jets right now are doing their due diligence, just like any other team would in that situation," the executive said. "But to say that a deal is quickly forthcoming, from everything I've seen, is not accurate. But given the way Revis has handled contract situations in the past, it is likely that the Jets are being prudent in exploring their options."

Kristian Dyer
sports@metro.us

Free period

The NFL's free-agency period begins tomorrow at 4 p.m. Metro looks at a few key players the Jets will debate bringing back in 2013.

- **S LaRon Landry**
  Landry was a revelation in 2012 after signing on the cheap for one year and $3.5 million. It will be tough for the Jets to sign him, as he'll likely ask for a multiyear deal.
- **S Yeremiah Bell**
  The second half of the Jets' safety corps brought in last season needs to get re-signed. Bell will come cheaper than Landry, which — let's face it — is important considering the cap.
- **DT Mike DeVito**
  The unsung lineman is reportedly a "priority" for the Jets and will likely get a deal done.
- **WR Braylon Edwards**
  Brought in at midseason, Edwards enjoyed his time back in New York. He was also the team's best receiver with Santonio Holmes on the shelf.

Former GM talks trading one of your top players

Phil Savage was the general manager of the Cleveland Browns from 2005 to 2008, and he understands the dynamics in play now for Idzik.

If the Jets trade Revis, they're going from a win-now mentality to rebuilding their roster without its star.

"Well, how much bang for your buck are you getting for the first rounder and the other picks, when you're talking about these kind of trades and using words like 'rebuilding' — when in reality, Rex Ryan, the coach, is in a situation where he needs to win this year?" Savage told Metro. "That's an internal situation that they need to decide is if Darrelle Revis is part of their winning today and can he be a part of winning tomorrow? Are they willing to sacrifice a really good player to begin another chapter?"

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Phil Savage, left, feels the Jets should not deal Revis.

To me, a bird in hand is worth more than two in the bush. Darrelle Revis is a proven, top-flight, proven corner. They just don't grow on trees." METRO/KD

In the news

Hopkins oldest to win title belt

Bernard Hopkins became the oldest boxer ever to win a major title belt late Saturday night at the Barclays Center.

Hopkins, 48, defeated Tavoris Cloud by unanimous decision in 12 rounds to claim the IBF light heavyweight championship. And he celebrated in true Brooklyn fashion.

"It feels good," Hopkins told reporters after the win. "It feels real good. I'm going to Junior's [and] I'm going to have cheesecake."

Hopkins improved to an astounding 53-6-2 in a career that began in 1988 with a loss to Clinton Mitchell.

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Rangers pound Capitals as Biron stars in net

Rangers head coach John Tortorella didn't get the memo that you are supposed to play your star goalie on a Sunday afternoon national TV game.

Then again, maybe he did.

Marty Biron started in net for the Rangers in place of defending Vezina Trophy winner Henrik Lundqvist, and despite an early goal, the backup looked like a star in yesterday's 4-1 win over Washington.

Capitals defenseman Steven Oleksy scored his first career goal 2:16 into the first period, but Biron was magnificent after that. He finished the game with 28 saves.

ON TV TOMORROW

Rangers at Sabres
7 p.m., MSG

On the other end of the ice, it was the usual star players doing the offensive work.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Biron, left, celebrates with Lundqvist.

Derek Stepan scored his sixth goal of the season to equalize the game at 1-1 in the first period. Brian Boyle netted his first goal of the season in what turned out to be the game-winner, but captain Ryan Callahan and Brad Richards were the other scorers. Meanwhile, Rick Nash continued his torrid play with two assists, one coming on an accidental deflection by Callahan. He now has 11 points in the last six games. **METRO**

Knicks already looking past Stoudemire knee surgery

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Stoudemire

The Knicks got the bad news Saturday night — moments before facing the Jazz — that they would be without Amar'e Stoudemire for the rest of the regular season.

The power forward will have a debridement procedure on his right knee, which will take him out for six weeks.

But the Knicks beat the Jazz in a rout Saturday night and are already planning for the return of their $100 million man come playoff time.

"Amar'e works hard," head coach Mike Woodson said. "I give him a lot of credit for that. He wants to play and be on the basketball floor. He's going to put a hard six weeks [of rehab] to get back out on the floor to help us."

Stoudemire had a similar debridement done on his left knee in October. He did not play this season until Jan. 1, but that injury was complicated by a cyst developing in his knee. The team is obviously hopeful there will be no complications this time around. **METRO**

ON TV TONIGHT

Knicks at Warriors
10:30 p.m., MSG

Sports in brief

Wheeler sent to minors camp

MLB. If you wanted to watch pitching prospect Zack Wheeler in Mets camp, you had to act quick.

The 22-year-old made just one start with the major-league club before being sent back down to the minor-league club yesterday. He was one of 10 players to be sent down.

Wheeler dealt with a right oblique injury, which likely contributed to his quick exit from the big camp. The injury is minor, according to the team, and it was unlikely Wheeler would've made the club out of spring anyway.

Wheeler threw a practice session yesterday and said he "felt good." He is ranked as the No. 11 prospect in baseball, according to Baseball America. **METRO**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Porter, whose Hoyas clinched the Big East regular-season title on Saturday, is projected as an NBA lottery pick.

Big East names honor roll teams

NCAA. The Big East, in its last year as we know it, released its all-conference teams yesterday.

Georgetown's Otto Porter was the only unanimous selection to the First Team, and is expected to be named Player of the Year tomorrow as the conference tournament gets under way at Madison Square Garden.

UConn's Shabazz Napier, Louisville's Gorgui Dieng and Russ Smith, Providence's Bryce Cotton and Notre Dame's Jack Cooley joined Porter on the First Team.

St. John's JaKarr Sampson was a unanimous selection to the All-Rookie team, and was joined by teammate Chris Obekpa. Sampson is the favorite to take top rookie honors Tuesday. **METRO**

Ramirez signs with Taiwanese baseball team

MLB. Former Yankees nightmare Manny Ramirez will be taking his talents to Taiwan.

Ramirez, 40, has reportedly signed a one-year deal with the EDA Rhinos of the Chinese Professional Baseball League.

No word yet on what the drug-testing policies are like for players in Taiwan. **METRO**

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